

REMARKS

New claim 81 has been added. Claims 1, 41, 77-78, and 80 have been amended. After entry of the present amendments, claims 1-9, 11-34, 36, 41-48, 50-64, 75-81 remain in this application.

Claim Rejections - § 112

Claims 77 and 78 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as reciting limitations that lack proper antecedent basis. The dependencies of claims 77 and 78 have been amended to supply the proper antecedent basis and the rejection is believed to be overcome.

Claim Rejections - § 103

Regarding independent claims 1 and 41, the Examiner cites the definition from the Encarta Dictionary as defining the term “encrypt” to mean to convert text into code. This is only one of several definitions of the term encrypt. One of the definitions provided by the Encarta Dictionary for the term “encrypt” is “to convert a text into code **or cipher**.” Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 41 have been amended to call for encrypting the transmitted information into ciphered information. Because converting information into cipher is part of the definition of encrypt, no new matter is added.

The well-known formats of binary, decimal, hexadecimal, or ASCII would not be considered to be ciphers by one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, the conversion among these formats does not correspond to encrypting information into ciphered information. For at least the reason that neither Raven nor Sizer discloses encrypting the transmitted information into ciphered information, at least claims 1 and 41 and their dependent claims are believed to be patentable thereover.

Regarding independent claim 27, it calls for, *inter alia*, transmitting an identifier associated with a player of the gaming machine, which is stored on a portable data unit including a second radio microchip, between the portable data unit and the gaming machine via the radio link, and, responsive to the transmitting, accessing from the central host computer information selected from the group consisting of player preferences for establishing a player’s preferred gaming machine configuration, game play data, casino preferences, and gaming machine data.

Put simply, according to one aspect, the wireless portable data unit (“PDU”) stores an identifier that is associated with a player of the gaming machine. That identifier is transmitted wirelessly between the PDU and the gaming machine, and, responsive thereto, certain information is accessed from the central host computer, the information being selected from the group consisting of player preferences for establishing a player’s preferred gaming machine configuration, game play data, casino preferences, and gaming machine data.

Raven does not disclose accessing from the central host computer, responsive to transmitting a player-associated identifier between the PDU and the gaming machine, information selected from the group consisting of player preferences for establishing a player’s preferred gaming machine configuration, game play data, casino preferences, and gaming machine data. The Office Action cites 1:38-2:3, 10:37-11:68, and Figure 3 as support, but these citations do not support a *prima facie* rejection based on obviousness.

The Office Action does not identify what precise structure in Raven corresponds to the claimed PDU, such as the DMK unit 12, the MASTERCOM 14, the magnetic/smart card reader 34, or a magnetic/smart card. Nor does the Office Action identify specifically what element is believed to correspond to the claimed “central host computer.” Applicants request more clarity in the next office action as to what element (by reference number) the Examiner believes corresponds to the claimed PDU and to the claimed central host computer. In any event, nothing in 1:38-2:3 discloses a PDU storing an identifier associated with a player. In 10:37-11:62, the player enters a PIN number (which is not stored but rather entered via the keypad 32 by the player) and a credit amount via the keypad 32. Raven does not disclose transmitting that PIN to the gaming machine 10, nor would such an arrangement make any sense. Rather, the PIN is transmitted for verification “at a financial institution or at the casino.” Col. 10, ll. 57-58. If the correct PIN and valid amount have been entered, the main computer 16 returns an authorization amount and a code. Even if the PIN were to correspond to the claimed identifier, which it clearly does not, Raven does not disclose accessing from the central host computer information selected from the group consisting of player preferences for establishing a player’s preferred gaming machine configuration, game play data, casino preferences, and gaming machine data. The Office Action cites 11:63-68 as allegedly disclosing information selected from the group consisting of player preferences for establishing a player’s preferred gaming machine

configuration, game play data, casino preferences, and gaming machine data, however, column 11, lines 63-68 reads in its entirety:

From the above discussion it is apparent that the invention provides a gaming machine system with multiple features, not only providing the casino operator with extensive information for casino management, but also allowing the player and employee to interact with the system.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above citation does not disclose information selected from the group consisting of player preferences for establishing a player's preferred gaming machine configuration, game play data, casino preferences, and gaming machine data. Finally, the Office Action generally cites Figure 3 as corresponding to accessing the host computer information. Again, Applicants request clarity in the next office action as to which element in Figure 3 the Examiner believes corresponds to the claimed central host computer. Nevertheless, Applicants note that claim 27 calls for responsive to the transmitting [of the player-associated identifier between the PDU and the gaming machine], accessing from the central host computer information selected from the group consisting of player preferences for establishing a player's preferred gaming machine configuration, game play data, casino preferences, and gaming machine data.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 27 and its dependent claims are believed to be patentable over Raven in view of Sizer.

Independent claim 80 has been amended to call for the at least one gaming machine includes a controller programmed to receive, responsive to the wireless transmission link transmitting the identifier, from the central host computer information selected from the group consisting of player preferences for establishing a player's preferred gaming machine configuration, game play data, casino preferences, and gaming machine data. For at least the same reasons set forth in connection with claim 27, claim 80 is believed to be patentable over Raven in view of Sizer.

Regarding claim 79, it recites wherein the game play data includes data selected from the group consisting of the identification of the last predetermined number of gaming machines played by the player associated with the personal identifier, information relating to the games played by the player associated with the personal identifier, the prizes won by the player associated with the personal identifier, the number of coins played by the player associated with

the personal identifier, the number of coins paid out to the player associated with the personal identifier, the number of games played by the player associated with the personal identifier, the time of play by the player associated with the personal identifier. Applicants submit that Raven nowhere discloses accessing from the central host computer game play data that includes data that is associated with the personal identifier stored on the PDU. The Office Action cites column 6, lines 4-32. It is respectfully submitted that this excerpt does not disclose the subject matter of claim 79. Claim 79, which depends from independent claim 27, is believed to be patentable over Raven in view of Sizer because a *prima facie* showing of obviousness has not been made.

Regarding the dependent claims, they are believed to be allowable for at least the reason that the respective independent claim from which they depend is allowable. Applicants repeat the additional arguments made respecting certain dependent claims by reference to their prior replies, and submit that they are allowable for at least those additional reasons.

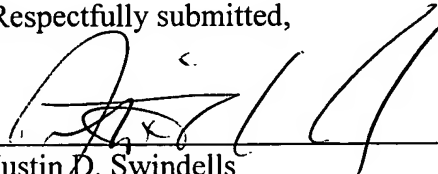
CONCLUSION

If any matters can be clarified by an interview, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

It is believed that no additional fees are presently due; however, should any additional fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Jenkins & Gilchrist, P.C. Deposit Account No. 10-0447, Order No. 47079-00107USD1.

Respectfully submitted,



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